

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

## REVISION OF COLLEGE WORK.

The Reorganization of Our Colleges. By Clarence F. Birdseye. Published by The Baker & Taylor Company, New York.

It is a significant sign of the times that so many earnest and well-informed writers are setting forth their criticisms of the work of the schools, from the lowest to the highest, all along the line. This volume is one of the best of all the books that have been printed in this line. The author has made a profound and well-matured study of the work of the schools, and has made a study of educational ideas on what should be done to improve our systems of college instruction. His "Individual Training in Our Colleges" was a work of the most suggestive character, and made a stir in the educational world. This present volume will do no less. It begins with a query, "Shall We Reorganize Our Colleges?" And taking it for granted that we will if we do what we should do, inquires from what standpoint we shall begin and how proceed. Then he considers "The Student," "The Faculty," "The Department," "The College," "The Greek Letter Fraternities," and the various relations of the student to the college. Next he takes up "The Separate Administrative Departments," "The Department of the Present Basis," and what is desirable in it to preserve and what to eliminate; the relation and function of elective and political or commercial courses; the discipline and organization of the department; the marking system, the routine and the reports, the examinations—all presenting a pretty thorough and well-digested plan of reorganization. Then we come to the "Summing Up," in which are presented the motto and ideal, and the keynote of the reorganized college, and the query, "Can we have a new form of American college and university?" Five appendices give reports, foundations, and discussions of interest, and a good index completes the volume. The author lays down the last three propositions in summing up his conclusions, as follows:

First, if our college education is to be distinctly nationalized and to be primarily for the training of problem solvers, it follows that the institutions which fully adopt this new ideal must be able to direct the National and State aid. In the past the National, the State, and the local municipal governments have given aid to the college, but not to the university. It is necessary, therefore, to provide permanent funds for educational purposes. Possibly the same thing will be done again if help is needed in an endeavor to formulate a new system and ideas of higher education.

Second, if the college is to reorganize their community life upon true business principles, they will call for and get the aid of their business alumni and of a high grade of non-college business men, who will take a new interest in the institutions which are thus to undertake a new work in preparing their undergraduates for business and the professions. This aid will be given in a way that no aid that can be given by the State.

Third, but if the institutions of higher learning are to reorganize their college homes, they will call for and surely have the cordial cooperation of the parents of the land, who now too often and too justly look askance at a course in college; and who shall say that the aid, financial and otherwise, of the parents will not be the greatest of all. It will largely include the alumni and will force action by the State.

The State, the community, and the home—these three, but the greatest of these is the home.

## THE RUTHLESS TYRANT.

The Gorgon Borgia: A Romance. By Justin Huntly McCarthy. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York.

A novel by this author is always sure of a warm welcome from the reading public, for he has ability, knowledge, and skill. This book may be called semi-historical. It traces a portion of the career of the ambitious, unscrupulous, and grasping Caesar Borgia, son of Pope Alexander VI. It was a time of trouble and tumult, and the daring Caesar stopped at nothing to gain his ends. His enemies were banished or slain, and he was the despot of Rome. When his father died, he controlled the succession, causing the election of Cardinal Fiesco to be the new Pope, who chose the title of Pius III. But he was a feeble man, and died in a month. An enemy of Caesar succeeded him, and that was the end. In this story is given the account of Caesar's love affair with Lavinella, a daughter of the house of Orsini, who

were deadly foes of the Borgias. Lavinella was reared with the idea of making her the Judith of the people, to go to Caesar and kill him as opportunity presented. But he had won her love while masquerading as a simple shepherd, and on being presented to him as a mistress, he cruelly took advantage of the position and of her love. He shouted the mad defiance, "Men of the Orsini! I have your maid!"

All the subtlety, the brutal and reckless blood-letting, the outrages and crimes and hardened selfishness and cruelty of the Borgia race and of the time are vividly brought out in this tragic story. The author is fully master of his history and of the manner and customs of the times and of the people that he portrays. It is one of the most fascinating novels of the year, and has a sufficient substratum of fact to make it a realistic picture of horror.

## A UTAH TEXT-BOOK.

From the American Book Company, Chicago, we have "Natural Study for Primary Grades," by Horace H. Cummings, B. S., former supervisor of nature study in the State Normal school of Utah. This book, the author explains in his preface, is the result of an agreement with the Utah State text-book convention, held in 1904, which requested the author to compile the lessons and suggestions embodied in certain studies of nature study, prepared by Mr. Cummings when he took charge of the nature study work in the State Normal school. No text-book was at hand that would put the student in touch with his environment, and the need of such help for him led to the preparation of the outlines. The text-book convention requested that these be put in the form of a text-book, and the author has done this in a fair and clear presentation of the subject, and we should think it very suitable for the purpose intended. The book will no doubt be widely used throughout the State, and it is a fair and clear presentation of the subject, and we should think it very suitable for the purpose intended. The book will no doubt be widely used throughout the State, and it is a fair and clear presentation of the subject, and we should think it very suitable for the purpose intended.

From the same company we have Schiller's "Die Jungfrau von Orléans," edited by Warren Washburn Flower, Ph. D., instructor in German, University of Michigan. It is a well-presented volume, that has been prepared in the light of the recent Schiller investigations for the purpose of introducing students to the elements of literary interpretation, and of stimulating in them a desire to read the drama as a masterpiece. A faithful picture of conditions in France at the time of the appearance of the Maid is given, with a short sketch of her life, and hints as to Schiller's use of history and of the principal literary sources, and an account of the composition and production of the drama. The vocabulary contains the special, as well as the general meanings of words, and the principal idioms. The notes are abundant and are divided. The literary materials are collected, so that the student may, at a glance, note the general influence of literary sources upon the author, and the exacting standard of the simplest problems of the drama.

From the same we have Forman's "Essentials in Civil Government," intended for the last years of the grammar school and the high school, the purpose being to establish high political ideals and to promote good citizenship. Incidentally, it teaches many important facts concerning the forms and workings of our government. Each lesson in civics is made a lesson in political ethics. Good citizenship is recognized to be an affair both of the head and of the heart. The general subject of government and the duties of the various government officers are treated with considerable fullness, and with admirable clearness and effect.

From the same we have Aiken's Music Course, in one book, which contains a large collection of one part songs, available to singers of any age. It also provides a well-chosen collection of songs for two, three and four parts. The poems, selected with great care, are representative of the best English and American authors. This reader takes up systematically the simpler elements of instruction, presents them clearly and illustrates them abundantly with single voice songs and part songs. Several of the works have been compiled for the general purposes of sight singing. The instruction is given in sufficient detail to make the entire contents

of the book practical to the pupil, and at the same time to simplify its presentation to the teacher.

## A GREAT ATHLETE'S NOVEL.

Loaded Dice. By Elery H. Clark. With illustrations by E. Graham Coates. Published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis.

This story opens on a game of bridge, in which four players, Vanlin, the wealthy and partly brewer; Harry Palmer, rich and stupid; Dick Gordon, sharp stock broker, and Mott Smith, stock gambler, put in the night. At this party, Palmer announces his engagement, and they all duly celebrate. Gordon wants the girl for himself, and plays a reckless, criminal game to get her; and he makes Palmer his victim, confessing his crimes and his failures on his death bed. It is a highly colored, drastic lesson on the art of taking desperate chances and pushing one's aims unscrupulously and without limit.

The author presents good, honest work in this novel, and he diversifies his narrative with various events of an exciting nature, as in a spirited account of a sensational horse race, an exciting duck hunt, a hammer-throwing contest in which the two comes to sudden grief, a tough and bloody first fight, and so on. Mr. Clark would be strong on athletics and out-door sports, as he has more than once won the title of champion all-around athlete of America. So he leads his reader graphically entertained throughout with fine descriptions of athletic prowess, and all coming so easily and in such sequence as to seem the most natural thing in the world, the proper outgrowth of the lives of the characters created. These are exceedingly well drawn, and the work as a whole is most alluring in its presentations of scenes, events and personages.

## A GIRL AND HER ART.

The Actress: A Novel. By Louise Glower. Illustrated and Published by Harper & Brothers, New York.

The actress who had a supposed career, and an art to which she must give herself up, rejects her lover's importunities, and flies her off to London and to glorious triumph on the stage. She gets along surprisingly well for a time, too; and her narrative is unsparring in ridicule, in criticism, and in self-analysis. The girl finds her real dream hard to attain. The hard grind of the profession, the exhausting training, drill, and managerial requirements make life a burden, and then regrets crop in. These are made more frequent, more keen, as the suspicion that her lover may have—actual has, in her excited fear—another girl, and has thrown her over. This state of mind presently becomes a haunting dread, and she loses her stage fever, as she concludes that she has lost her lover. But he is the prince of good fellows and faithful lovers all through, and when the spirit of his lady faints, he is there to see that he gets his reward. The ups and downs of stage life are vividly told, but the scandals are left out for once, much to the reader's comfort. The story is a lively one throughout, and is told in an original, frank vein that is certain to captivate the reader.

## BEAUTIFUL EASTER CARDS.

From Raphael Tuck & Sons Co., New York, we have a rich assortment of beautiful Easter cards, consisting of leader cards, and post cards. These are ingenious in conception, choice in design, and dainty and exquisite in workmanship. The coloring is artistic and lovely, and as a whole the cards represent the highest attainment in the realm of lithography and color printing. The glistening Dew Post cards are a charming novelty; their attractive and brilliant appearance appeals to the most exclusive and refined taste, while their great variety in choice offers wide liberty of selection. This firm makes a specialty of this sort of work, and it is certainly in the lead in supplying the demand.

## LITERARY NOTES.

It is only one sign of the increasing popularity of H. G. Wells that two of his books should now have been entirely reprinted by the Harper & Brothers. Mr. Wells has had what might be called a convincing career, and is rapidly nearing that double-seat of eminence where an author may sit and be both a serious and popular writer. The two books just reprinted are excellent representatives of his power; one in the realm of the short story, of substantial imagination and of a masterly style, the other of that world of fantastic romance where he is king beside whom all the rest are pretenders.

Within a week of publication, a second edition of "The Straw," the new novel of hunting life in England, has been found necessary. The author of this novel, Ramsey, has been hitherto quite unknown on this side of the Atlantic, and considerable curiosity has been aroused concerning her real identity. It is asserted that the startling events narrated in "The Straw" are true and that Elma Ramsey is the pen name of a person well known in sporting circles in Leicestershire. However that may be, "Miss Ramsey" has written a brisk, vivid tale of vigorous life.

Hamlin Garland, since the publication of "The Shadow World," has had a curious assortment of letters from people begging him for explanations of the experiences on psychic grounds. Some are serious enough, but others are such natural happenings that one wonders what there is about them to upset nervous minds. Mr. Garland says he is reminded of the story of some one who wrote to the editor, "Yesterday was the eighty-sixth anniversary of my grandfather's birth. He was very much upset because an exceptionally fat robin came and stared at him through the window for fully a minute, and then flew away without a word. What do you think of this weird experience, and if you were my grandfather, would you be troubled?" To which the editor replied, "If I were your grandfather and were eighty-six, I should be troubled to no end. A true grandfather would not expect it."

Ray Stannard Baker in New Ideals in Religion, just published by Stokes, quotes Professor William James of Harvard, the great psychologist, to the effect that there is passing over America a wave of religious activity in many respects analogous to the spread of early Christianity and Buddhism. This is startling statement, especially from such a high authority. Many, no doubt, have noticed evidence of spiritual activity, but have wondered whether these might not show longing for new faith rather than anything more substantial. Yet the multiplication of various "movements" and modes of thought dealing with man's spiritual needs is an undoubted and remarkable feature of our present phase of development. Mr. Baker has seen the essential in this confused subject and has given us both an explanation and an interpretation. His little book will probably remove the perplexity of many.

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